



# TRANSNATIONAL LITERATURE



## *Amnesty*

She finds and shows him a yellowed card  
he gave her on their 10th anniversary.  
He notes the date, not when they married  
but when they first moved in together.  
Wedding anniversaries stir his unease  
sentimental overdoses puttying cracks  
soft thinkers choosing fairy stories  
in preference to those of real life.

On the card is a poem he wrote  
and a painting by an Argentine  
from a time of people disappearing  
of terror, torture, murder, despair.  
The painter, a trade unionist  
used jail food to colour the picture  
for his unborn son he won't see for years  
after he and his pregnant wife were arrested.

The poem is about surviving tough times  
rough hitch-hiking adventures in America.  
He thinks it alludes to their relationship  
and is a kind of prediction of the future.  
He knows what the Argentines  
would think of these tough times.  
The loved boy who received the painting gift  
is a man now, the past a time of heroes  
his family reunited in America, free.

He realises their anniversary is due  
another one with a nice rounded figure  
wonders if he should, can, do anything about it.

*Ian C Smith*

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<http://fhrc.flinders.edu.au/transnational/home.html>